THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The authorization for construction of Dabhol-Bangalore natural gas pipeline has been granted to GAIL (India) Ltd. on 2.7.07. A provision has been kept by GAIL for a tap-off at Gokak near Chikodi for laying of a spur line from the tap-off point to Goa. Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for this is under preparation.

(e) A reply has been sent to the Government of Goa on 26.3.08 by this Ministry in this regard.

Consumption of kerosene oil

3798. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of kerosene oil in the country is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the details of consumption of kerosene oil during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding reasons behind increase in consumption of kerosene oil every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the increasing demand, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of consumption of kerosene for the last three years are as under.

Figure in Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Consumption	9541	9474	9353

(c) to (e) Do not arise, in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) above, which shows declining trend in the consumption of kerosene oil in the country.

Shutting down of oilfields

3799. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 24-day shut-down of Mumbai offshore oil exploration fields, has resulted in reduction of nearly 11 Million Metric Standard Cubic gas per day during January, 2008;

(b) if so, whether such a situation has impacted LPG production by Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), at two of its plants;

(c) whether a 24-day shut-down for offshore fields matches the internationally accepted standards; and

(d) what are the global shut-down durations of large offshore fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) A 24-days shutdown was scheduled at a platform of Mumbai Offshore in Bassein field in January, 2008 from 02.01.2008 to 25.01.2008 for hook-up, integration & commissioning activities of new BCP-B-2 booster compressor

platform. However, the job was completed in only 13 days *i.e.* from 02.01.2008 till 14.01.2008. During the shutdown period, Gas production of about 13 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) was curtailed from Bassein field.

(b) Due to shutdown, supply of gas from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to Gail (India) Limited (GAIL)'s processing/LPG plants along Hazira Vijaypur Jagdishpur (HVJ) Pipeline fell from normal average of 2.2 MMSCMD to 1.2 MMSCMD. However this shortfall was met through market priced gas. Hence, there was no impact on Liquefield Petroleum Gas (LPG) production in GAIL plants along HVJ pipeline.

(c) and (d) Shutdowns at Platforms are common with Offshore Oil and Gas Industry internationally. However, the duration of shutdown depends on the quantum and type works involved.

Phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products

3800. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under-recovery of the PSU oil companies on account of subsidy on petroleum products has now crossed the mark of Rs. 71,800 crores;

(b) whether the oil marketing companies bear a share of 8.5 per cent of such under-recoveries, with almost 52 per cent met from the issue of oil bonds; and

(c) the steps being taken to phase out subsidies in phases to reduce the debt burden of oil bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) International oil prices have been on a consistent up-trend since 2003-04. The steep increase in international oil prices is having a major impact on the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) The total gross under-recoveries of the OMCs on the sale of sensitive petroleum products *i.e.* Petrol Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG for the year 2007-08 are estimated to be approximately Rs. 77,303 crore.

(b) The burden of under-recoveries shared by the Government, Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies and OMCs during 2006-07 was as under:

		2006-07	
Sl. No.		Rs. crore	%
1	Reduction in under-recoveries due to price increase in Petrol and Diesel during the year	7,119	12.60
2	Amount borne by Upstream Oil Companies	20,507	36.30
3	Amount borne by Government through issue of Oil Bonds	24,121	42,70
4	Amount absorbed by OMCs	4,759	8.40
	Total under-recoveries of OMCs	56,506	100.00

(c) The provision of subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG has been made by the Government to protect the interests of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. Government has extended the existing subsidy scheme "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme 2002" and Freight Subsidy (For Far-Flung Areas) Scheme 2002 upto 31st March, 2010.